

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 17, 27, 32, 36 and 42, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head proximate a rotating disc, the slider comprising:

a slider body having a disc opposing face bounded by a leading edge and a trailing edge, the slider body having a longitudinal axis;

an air bearing surface defined on the disc opposing face, the air bearing surface having a pad proximate the trailing edge wherein the transducing head is located on the pad; and

an interface defined on the disc opposing face of the slider body and substantially surrounding the transducing head wherein the interface displaces the transducing head vertically with respect to the slider body in response to surface topography of the disc to maintain head media spacing (HMS) between the transducing head and the disc at a substantially constant separation distance as the slider flies above the disc.

18. (Original) The slider of claim 17 wherein the interface is less stiff than the slider body.

19. (Original) The slider of claim 17 wherein the slider body comprises a first material and the interface comprises a second material, the first material being more stiff than the second material.

20-21. (Canceled)

22-24. (Withdrawn)

25. (New) The slider of claim 17 wherein the interface has a first surface at the disc opposing face of the slider body, and the slider further comprises at least one spring etched into the first surface of the interface.

26. (New) The slider of claim 17 wherein the slider body has a first thickness and the interface has a second thickness, the first thickness being greater than the second thickness.

27. (Currently amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head with respect to a surface, the slider comprising:

- (a) a primary air bearing;
- (b) a secondary air bearing comprising a transducing head; and
- (c) a compliant interface that connects the primary air bearing and the secondary air bearing, wherein the compliant interface reacts to topography of the surface such that the transducing head moves vertically with respect to the primary air bearing to maintain a substantially constant head media spacing between the transducing head and [[a]] the surface.

28. (New) The slider of claim 27 wherein the compliant interface is less stiff than the primary air bearing.

29. (New) The slider of claim 27 wherein the primary and secondary air bearings comprise a first material and the compliant interface comprises a second material, the first material being more stiff than the second material.

30. (New) The slider of claim 27 wherein the compliant interface has a first surface at a surface opposing face of the primary air bearing, and the slider further comprises at least one spring etched into the first surface of the compliant interface.

31. (New) The slider of claim 27 wherein the primary and secondary air bearings have a first thickness and the compliant interface has a second thickness, the first thickness being greater than the second thickness.

32. (Currently amended) The slider of claim 27 wherein the surface is a disc surface and the secondary air bearing modulates in response to local disc surface topography to maintain the head media spacing substantially constant.

33. (New) The slider of claim 27 wherein the interface comprises a spring connecting the secondary air bearing to the primary air bearing and a gap is formed between the primary and secondary air bearings.

34. (New) The slider of claim 33, and further comprising:
a first actuation comb attached to the primary air bearing and lying within the gap;
and
a second actuation comb attached to the secondary air bearing and lying within the gap wherein the first and second actuation combs are interwoven.

35. (New) The slider of claim 34 wherein the first and second actuation combs are electro-static combs.

36. (Currently amended) A slider for supporting a transducing head with respect to a surface, the slider comprising:

- (a) a primary air bearing;
- (b) a secondary air bearing comprising a transducing head; and
- (c) a compliant interface that connects the primary air bearing and the secondary air bearing, the compliant interface substantially surrounding the secondary air

bearing, wherein the compliant interface reacts to topography of the surface such that the transducing head moves vertically with respect to the primary air bearing to maintain a substantially constant head media spacing between the transducing head and [[a]] the surface.

37. (New) The slider of claim 36 wherein the compliant interface is less stiff than the primary air bearing.

38. (New) The slider of claim 36 wherein the primary and secondary air bearings comprise a first material and the compliant interface comprises a second material, the first material being more stiff than the second material.

39. (New) The slider of claim 36 wherein the compliant interface has a first surface at a surface opposing face of the primary air bearing, and the slider further comprises at least one spring etched into the first surface of the compliant interface.

40. (New) The slider of claim 36 wherein the primary and secondary air bearings have a first thickness and the compliant interface has a second thickness, the first thickness being greater than the second thickness.

41. (Currently amended) The slider of claim 36 wherein the surface is a disc surface and the secondary air bearing modulates in response to local disc surface topography to maintain the head media spacing substantially constant.